



For Immediate Release

**Contact:** Fay Lim  
Communications Supervisor  
Fay.Lim@snoco.org  
(425) 388-6413

## Snohomish County Activates a New Type of Traffic Beacon on South Machias Road near Centennial Middle School

*Drivers and Pedestrians Need to Understand How the New "HAWK" Beacon Operates*

EVERETT, Wash., February 27, 2015 – Snohomish County Public Works is activating a newly installed traffic beacon located on South Machias Road, directly in front of Centennial Middle School, on the morning of Tuesday, March 3, 2015. With a new type of signal, motorists and pedestrians need to be aware and understand how it operates. Public Works is providing information online at <http://snohomishcountywa.gov/hawk>.

The new **H**igh-Intensity **A**ctivated cross**W**alk or **HAWK** is a traffic beacon used to stop road traffic and allow pedestrians to cross more safely. This beacon is pedestrian-activated and displays a series of yellow and red lights to stop traffic.

"Improving pedestrian safety is a high priority for Executive John Lovick and the Public Works Department," said Owen Carter, Snohomish County Public Works Deputy Director. "The

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HAWK has been proven to be successfully used throughout the United States. The Federal Highway Administration (FHA) has reported that more than 70 percent of pedestrian fatalities occur on mid-block locations. The stretch of road in front of Centennial Middle School is definitely long and this beacon will assist pedestrians in a safer crossing.”

The HAWK beacon provides full pedestrian control and is an option when there are not consistent high pedestrian traffic volumes which would warrant a full traffic signal. Also the alternating red lights allow vehicles to proceed once the pedestrian has cleared their side of the travel lane, thus improving vehicle traffic flow.

This beacon includes features that make it accessible to users with disabilities, in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. These features consist of accessible curb ramps with detectable warning strips, audible locator tones, tactile features, and voice messaging.

Snohomish County Public Works is committed to improving access to its facilities for all users.

This is the second HAWK beacon installed within the county. The first was installed in front of the YMCA on Puget Park Drive, east of Mill Creek.

### **Use Guidelines for HAWK Beacons**

#### **Drivers:**

- When the lights on the HAWK beacon remain continuously dark, drivers do not have to stop.
- Drivers only have to respond to the beacon when a yellow or red light is displayed. This indicates that a pedestrian is waiting to cross (yellow) or crossing (red).

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*Pedestrians:*

- When an orange hand icon is displayed, pedestrians must press the button to activate the beacon and wait.
- When the crossing person icon is shown, pedestrians should proceed with caution as they cross the road.
- There will be a countdown signal which alerts pedestrians of the allotted time left to complete the crossing and that traffic will start to move.

Attached is an illustrated guide on how a HAWK beacon operates for drivers and pedestrians.

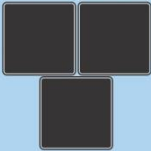

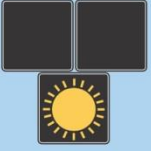

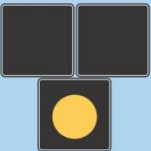

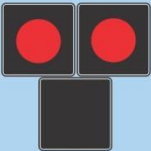



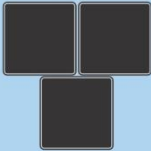

**Additional Information / Questions**

To learn more about this beacon, visit our website at <http://snohomishcountywa.gov/hawk> and view a video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7tyniC5DixE>.

If you have questions, please contact Snohomish County Public Works via email at [transportation@snoco.org](mailto:transportation@snoco.org) or call (425) 388-3789.

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# How Does a HAWK Beacon Work?

Drivers	Pedestrians
 <p><b>Proceed with Caution</b></p>	 <p><b>Push the Button to Cross</b></p>
 <p><b>Slow Down</b> (Pedestrian has activated the push button)</p> <p><i>Flashing</i></p>	 <p><b>Wait</b></p>
 <p><b>Prepare to Stop</b></p>	 <p><b>Continue to Wait</b></p>
 <p><b>Stop!</b> (Pedestrian in crosswalk)</p>	 <p><b>Start Crossing</b> (Proceed with caution)</p>
 <p><b>Stop!</b> (Proceed with caution if clear)</p> <p><i>Flashing</i></p>	 <p><b>Continue Crossing</b> (Countdown signal)</p> <p><i>Flashing</i></p>
 <p><b>Proceed if Clear</b></p>	 <p><b>Push the Button to Cross</b></p>